

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-04 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-20 USIA-06 SAB-01 SCCT-01 OMB-01 CIEP-01 DRC-01

/067 W

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R 121140Z OCT 74

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1318

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0691

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, PLO, IZ

SUBJECT: PFLP VISITS TO BAGHDAD

REF: BAGHDAD 0633

1. SUMMARY: RECENT SPATE OF VISITS TO IRAQ BY PFLP REPRESENTATIVES POINTS UP SCRAMBLE BY PFLP TO CONSOLIDATE FIRM BACKING FOLLOWING RECENT PFLP PULLOUT FROM PLO. END SUMMARY.

2. ON OCTOBER 5, DR. GEORGE HABBASH, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PFLP, AND PFLP-GC SECRETARY GENERAL NAJI ARRIVED IN BAGHDAD TO BEGIN A ROUND OF TALKS WITH PRESIDENT BAKR, RCC VICE CHAIRMAN SADDAM HUSSEIN AND SECRETARY GENERAL OF ARAB BAATH SOCIALIST PARTY AL-AYAMI. NAJI LEFT BAGHDAD OCTOBER 10, BUT THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY OCTOBER 11 ARRIVAL OF PFLP OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN ABU-SHARIF, WHO IS HERE TO ATTEND
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OCTOBER WAR CULTURAL FESTIVAL. HABBASH REMAINS IN BAGHDAD.

3. CONSPICUOUS LACK OF SUBSTANTIVE STATEMENTS IN IRAQI PRESS BY PFLP REPRESENTATIVES PROBABLY INDICATES THAT FULL ACCORD HAS NOT BEEN REACHED ON FUTURE TENOR OF PLO-BAATH-PFLP RELATIONSHIP, WHICH IS SOMEWHAT COMPLICATED FOLLOWING RECENT PLO-BAATH COMMUNIQUE (REFTEL), WHICH WAS UNUSUALLY FAVORABLE TO PLO STANCE.

4. TIMING OF SECRETARY'S VISIT TO AREA FOLLOWING PLO-PFLP RIFT CERTAINLY LENDS DEGREE OF URGENCY TO PFLP'S POSITION, SINCE THEY SEE VISIT AS DANGEROUS THREAT TO PALESTINIAN UNITY. ARAFAT'S INTENSIVE ACTIVITY IN ARAB WORLD LIKELY TO PRODUCE MORE SUCCESSES FOR MODERATE FACTION AT PFLP'S EXPENSE.
USREY

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To: STATE
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